

GHOST IN THE SHELL
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 5 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY
MASAMUNE SHIROW

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHOOT AND TOREN SMITH

この物語に登場する
様々な設定や解説や概
念は全て妄想の産物で
あり、現実とは無関係
の娯楽物です。服用を
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂
ければ幸いです。
またデッチ上げやギミ
ックの「誤用」による
二次被害には当方責任
を負いかねます点を御
了承願います。

LETTERING BY
**TOM ORZECOWSKI
AND DAN JACKSON**

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OPEN

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shirow during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

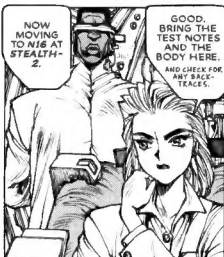
In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shirow

Send comments to:

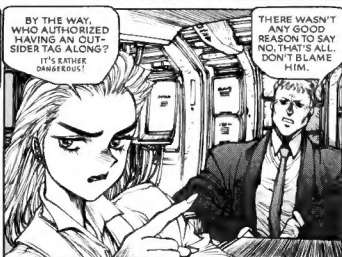
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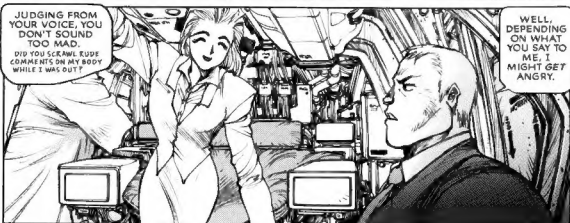
NOW
MOVING
TO N16 AT
STEALTH-
2.

GOOD.
BRING THE
TEST NOTES
AND THE
BODY HERE.
AND CHECK FOR
ANY BACK-
TRACES.



BY THE WAY,
WHO AUTHORIZED
HAVING AN OUT-
SIDER TAG ALONG?
IT'S KATHER
DANGEROUS!

THERE WASN'T
ANY GOOD
REASON TO SAY
NO, THAT'S ALL.
DON'T BLAME
HIM.



JUDGING FROM
YOUR VOICE, YOU
DON'T SOUND
TOO MAD.

DID YOU SCRAWL RUDE
COMMENTS ON MY BODY
WHILE I WAS OUT?

WELL,
DEPENDING
ON WHAT
YOU SAY TO
ME, I
MIGHT GET
ANGRY.

WHUP WHUP WHUP

SO...WAS IT AN ATTEMPT TO LOOK FOR THE SOURCE OF THE INFO LEAK? OR WERE YOU JUST TRYING TO TEST THOSE OF US IN THE SECURITY DEPARTMENT?

HEY, WE'RE NOT PLAYING GAMES HERE. MY DEPARTMENT IS WAY TOO BUSY TO "TEST" PEOPLE.

AS YOU KNOW, SECURITY WASN'T GUARDING THE COMPANY PRESIDENT HIMSELF, BUT A DECOT. I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LACK OF SECURITY...

...BUT DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT'VE MADE THE PRESIDENT PUBLICLY LOOK LIKE HE'D BEEN KILLED JUST TO COVER SOMETHING UP?

NO. THIS ENEMY'S GOT EXCELLENT SKILLS BUT POOR EXECUTION. BESIDES, THEY'RE ULTRA SUSPICIOUS.

SO THEY WOULDN'T USE THAT APPROACH.

ALSO, THEY'RE NOT AFTER THE PRESIDENT. WE SHOULDN'T TIP OUR HAND UNTIL WE SEE HOW THEY PLAN TO PLAY THIS.

IF WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY'RE TRYING TO DO, CAN'T WE PULL A "BAIT AND SMASH" ...?

NO, WE NEED TO CONFIRM THE DEGREE OF SECURITY SYSTEM EROSION, CONCENTRATE ON OUR OWN CORE DEFENSES, AND COMPENSATE FOR OUR LATE START IN ALL THIS. THE ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT WAS BAIT PUT OUT FOR US BY THE ENEMY.

WE SIMPLY NEED MORE TIME BEFORE WE CAN MOVE TO TAKE THEM OUT CLEANLY.

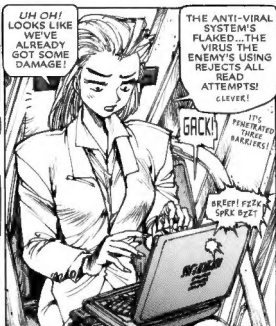


NORMALLY I'D LEAVE THIS TO THE U.N.'S NET POLICE, BUT IN THIS CASE WE OUGHT TO LET INDIA OR SINGAPORE HANDLE IT.

I DON'T WANT POSEIDON'S SECRECY FIREWALL DESTROYED OR DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF THIS.

takka tak tak takka

takka bōp! tak tak



UH OH! LOOKS LIKE WE'VE ALREADY GOT SOME DAMAGE!

THE ANTI-VIRAL SYSTEM'S FLAKED...THE VIRUS THE ENEMY'S USING REJECTS ALL READ ATTEMPTS! CLEVER!

GACK!

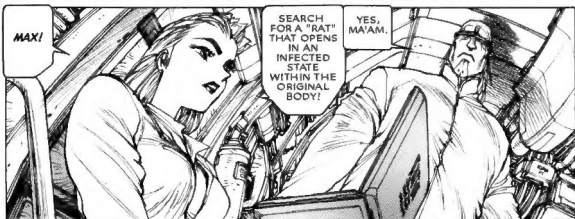
IT'S PENETRATED THREE BARRIERS!

BREEP! FZZK SPRK BZZT



WELL, I DON'T LIKE WAITING PASSIVELY UNTIL WE HAVE MORE VICTIMS.

CAN'T YOU JUST RECONFIGURE THE DEFENSES? THEN--



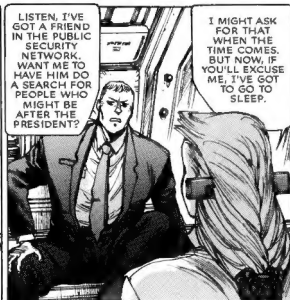
MAX!

SEARCH FOR A "RAT" THAT OPENS IN AN INFECTED STATE WITHIN THE ORIGINAL BODY!

YES, MA'AM.



BOTH E-BRAIN AND NET ARE OUT... IT'S A PROTECTION 4 STAND-ALONE TYPE. HMM...



LISTEN, I'VE GOT A FRIEND IN THE PUBLIC SECURITY NETWORK. WANT ME TO HAVE HIM DO A SEARCH FOR PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE AFTER THE PRESIDENT?

I MIGHT ASK FOR THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES, BUT NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT TO GO TO SLEEP.



"SLEEP"...? B...BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WERE DOING UNTIL JUST A COUPLE MINUTES-- ??

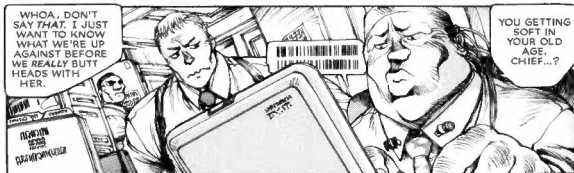
Z



--AND THAT'S THE LAST THING SHE SAID. SHE WAS STILL "SLEEPING" OR WHATEVER WHEN I GOT OFF THE HELO.

NOW I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF CONNECTIONS SHE'S GOT. GET ME HER FILES!

SHE'S BEEN ADDING INSULT TO INJURY FOR US EVER SINCE SHE GOT HER PRESENT JOB. WE GOTTA GET RID OF HER BEFORE OUR BUDGET'S CUT... DON'TCHA THINK?



WHOA, DON'T SAY THAT. I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST BEFORE WE REALLY BUTT HEADS WITH HER.

YOU GETTING SOFT IN YOUR OLD AGE, CHIEF...?



LESSEE... HER PROSTHETIC BODY'S AN ANGELA CVI DESIGN THAT WAS POPULAR ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO... HUH. KINDA PROLETARIAN, GIVEN HER SALARY.

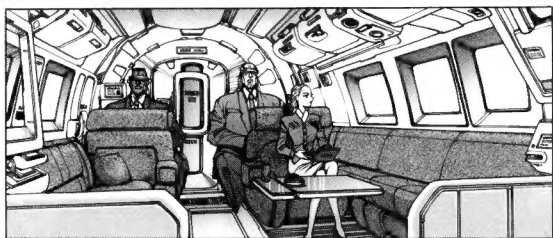
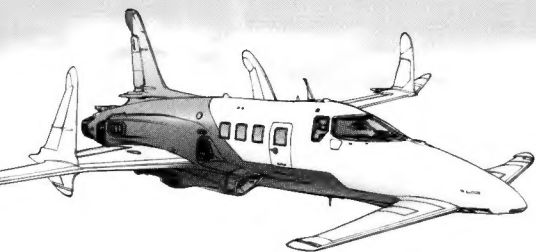
NO KIDDING. SHE CAN'T STILL BE USING GIMNY 30 FOR BODY CONTROL. MUST BE A SOFTWARE OVERLAY...

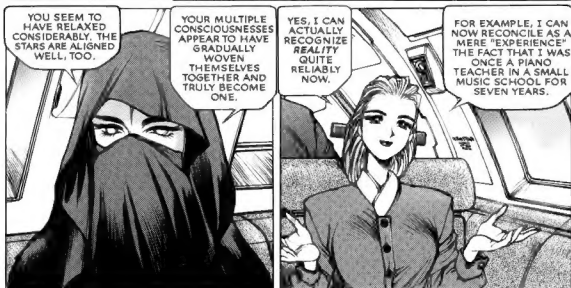
THINK IT COULD BE BODY MIMICRY TOO...?

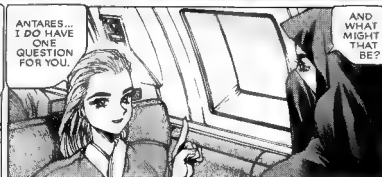
WHAT? LOOK AT THIS-- NO MILITARY OR POLICE EXPERIENCE! WHO THE HELL PROMOTED HER?!



This book was originally published in 2001, which the Japanese government declared the "First Year of the I.T. Era." While a tad slow out of the gate, they're apparently going to promote digitalization and English education. Of course, if we're really going to promote this in our rapidly aging society, we'd probably be better off investing in R&D for multi-language translation software (as they're apparently doing at the U.N.) or subsidizing R&D on super-simple user interfaces...but are we doing so? Or doing enough? Or even getting any results?









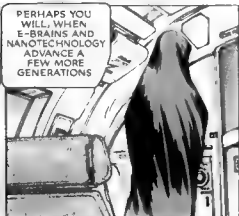
THE
STARS ARE
MOVING,
BUT I
CAN'T
SEE HIS
FORM

YET
SOMETIMES
I CANNOT
SEE YOUR
FORM,
EITHER



I KNOW OPTICAL
CAMOUFLAGE
DOESN'T WORK
ON YOU SO IT'S
SOMEHOW
COMFORTING TO
KNOW YOU CAN'T
SEE EVERY-
THING.

STILL...
I'D LOVE
TO HAVE
YOUR
ABILITY
TO "SEE,"
SOMEDAY



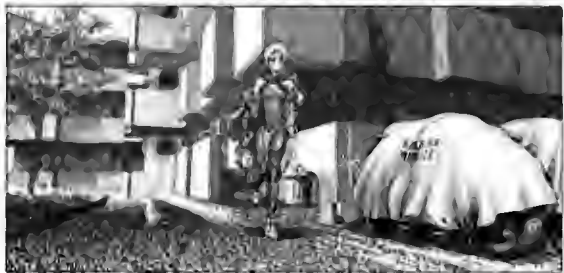
PERHAPS YOU
WILL, WHEN
E-BRAINS AND
NANOTECHNOLOGY
ADVANCE A
FEW MORE
GENERATIONS



WE COMPLETED THE
SATELLITE V-DELTA.
THE ITEM IN
QUESTION IS
CURRENTLY OVER THE
SKIES OF MANILA IN
ONE OF NANKAI
EXPRESS S PLANES
WE'VE ACTIVATED
THE DECOY CALLED
CHROMA FOR YOU

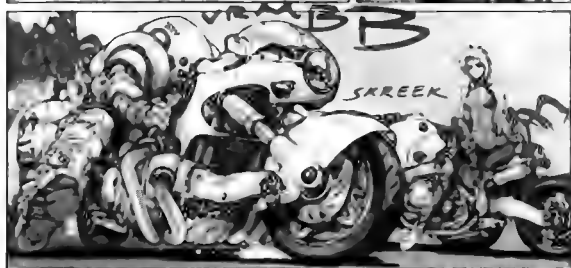
GOOD, TAKE CARE
OF MY BODY, AFTER
WE ARRIVE AT TPE,
EXECUTE DIRECTIVE
ARRAY 2-C MAKE
SURE I HAVE
AIR/GROUND
TRANSPORT TO THE
SAFE HOUSE. USE
ASSUMED NAME "K."

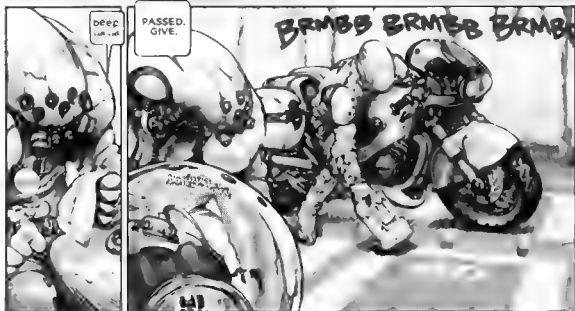


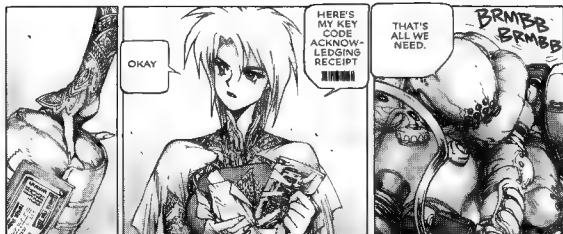




"Scattering" in this case refers to a scattering of radio waves coming in via satellite.







OKAY

HERE'S
MY KEY
CODE
ACKNOWLEDG-
ING RECEIPT

THAT'S
ALL WE
NEED.

BRMBB
BRMBB



HEY, HEY!
HOW ABOUT A
"THANKS FOR
YOUR
BUSINESS"...?!



HEH...NOW WE'LL
SEE HOW MUCH
THIS WILL HELP
CONTROL
THINGS...



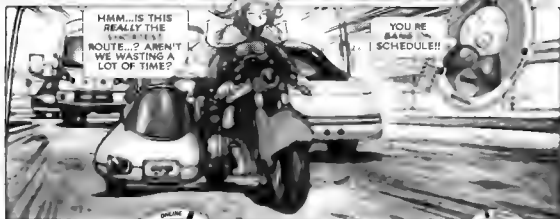
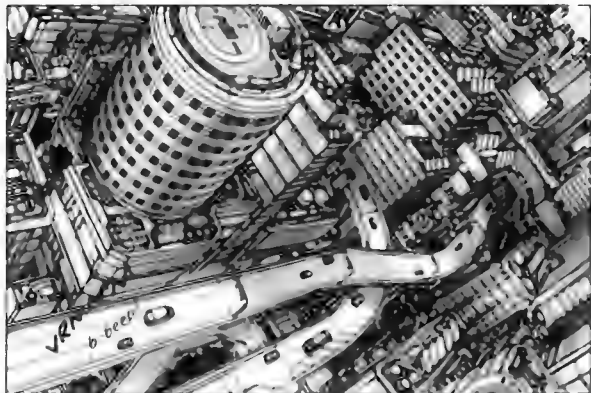
WHAT?! YOU REALLY
DON'T REMEMBER
SHIPPING ANYTHING
WITH NANKAI
DELIVERY? YOU
CAN'T EVEN TELL
YOUR MEMORY'S
BEEN ERASED?

I TOLD YOU--WHEN
I CAME TO, ALL I
KNEW WAS THAT
MY BODY CONTROL
SOFTWARE'D BEEN
CLEANED UP, AND I
FELT MUCH BETTER!
THAT'S ALL!!

THAT'S
WHY
E-BRAINS
SCARE
ME...

CREEPLY!

To improve the security of computers, the easiest thing is to not connect them to a network. But that's not a very good solution for most people, because they can't afford not to connect. In the near future we'll probably be inundated by networked household appliances, or IT appliances, and we'll need really good anti-virus strategies for them. Those who have appliances with heating elements or lots of family information stored in them will have to be especially careful. Somehow it scares me to think of cardkeys and fingerprint readers being used on my front door. So get to work, all you experts out there, I'm depending on you! (And how about running a network over the existing electrical wiring in a home? Does it really work? Is it safe?)



HMM...IS THIS
REALLY THE
BEST
ROUTE...? AREN'T
WE WASTING A
LOT OF TIME?

YOU'RE
SABOTAGING
MY SCHEDULE!!



THAT E-BRAIN
P.I. ALGREN, IS
WORKING IN THE
OFFICE AS USUAL
WE "CANCELLED"
THE ORDER
HEH, HEH.

I NEED
BODIES
NEARBY,
FOR
BACKUP.

AREN'T
RIGHT? DON'T
GET 'EM







LOOKS LIKE
THE INPUTS
FROM A WIRE
PUBLIC TERMINAL,
SO IT CAN'T BE
TRACED FROM
E-PRINTS.

NO ROM
RECORDS...
NO LOGS...
FRAGMENTS...
HRM



LOOKS LIKE A
SINGLE-BRAIN AI
MADE FOR
GAMES... SLIGHTLY
MODIFIED. IT'S
COMPACT AND
RANDOMIZED

CAN'T DO A TRACE
BASED ON JUST THIS.
HRM...LOOKS LIKE
THE NEURO SECTION
WAS AFFECTED BY THE
ENCOUNTER. MAYBE I
CAN MANUALLY
MANIPULATE IT VIA
HARDWARE.

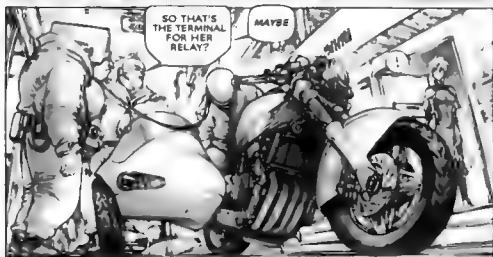


WELL
WILL YOU
DO IT OR
NOT?
P. 2 000

THE LAST TIME I
TURNED YOU DOWN I
WOULD UP LOCKED
IN A MULTIPHASIC
VIBAL ATTA IN FOR
THREE MONTHS AND
UNDERGOING A
NEAR-DEATH
EXPERIENCE

NO KIDDING...? GUESS YOU NEED
STRONGER ANTI-
RODIES IF PRICE
IS YOUR FEAR
I COULD BE... YOU
SOME GOOD
ONES

I'LL BE
WAITING
OUTSIDE



SO THAT'S
THE TERMINAL
FOR HER
RELAY?

MAYBE

WUPH
EVEN IN
THE UNDER-
GROUND I'D EXPECT
BETTER
MANNERS



HEY IS SHE
REALLY A
TERMINAL THAT
SOMEONE'S
MANIPULATING?
HER MOVEMENTS SEEM
TOO NATURAL

SCUSE US,
BUT WE WERE
TOLD TO MAKE
SURE YOU
DIDN'T GET
BORED WHILE
WAITING.

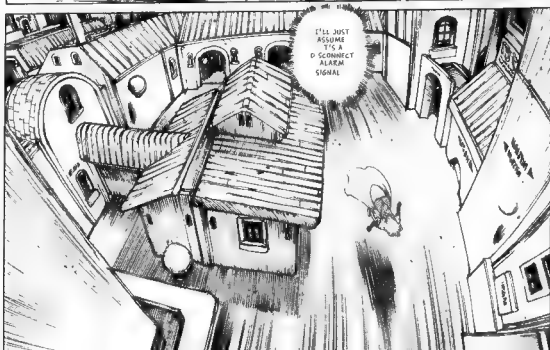
SO HOW
ABOUT WE
PLAY A
LITTLE
GAME?

GAME
OR
STALL?





By "fast," the man means the time it took her to find an access route, break through the barriers, infiltrate the target, and turn off the line.

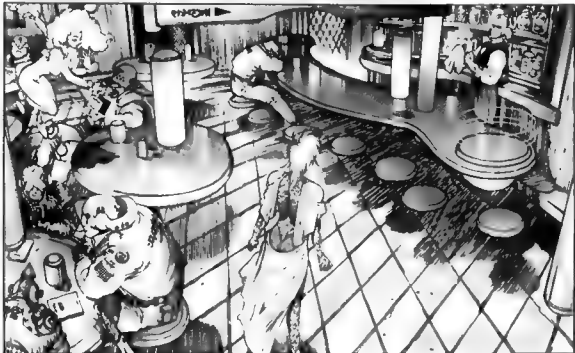


In this particular work, the e-brain matrix space is only drawn for effect. In reality there's no image I see it's, nor any such "space." But the "game program space" depicted in this page assumes that visual, auditory, and olfactory senses have been made as real as possible and that the laws of the physical world do appear to apply at least to some extent.





THE PEOPLE HERE ARE SOME OF THE OTHER GAME PLAYERS (OR PROGRAMMERS) BUT I CAN'T SAY WHERE TO TELL WHICH



SO
WHAT IS
THIS GAME,
ANYWAY?

WELL, NORMALLY
WE OFFER THIS
MENU TO OUR
GUESTS AND HAVE
THEM CHOOSE.



BUT I
ALREADY
HAVE A
COCKTAIL
READY
HERE

IT'S A
SPECIAL
COURSE.
JUST FOR
YOU

SO EACH PROGRAM-DRINK HOLDS THE KEY TO A COURSE RIGHT?

YES AFTER YOU DRINK IT PLEASE PROCEED TO THE SECOND FLOOR AND THROUGH THE GATE

YOU HAVE A ONE-MINUTE DELAY BEFORE THREE ARMED PLAYERS START COMING AFTER YOU ENJOY!

SO CHANGING THE CONTENTS OF THE PROGRAM-DRINK MAKES YOU ENTER A DIFFERENT COURSE HMM

AFTER AN "INVITATION" LIKE THIS, MAYBE I SHOULD LAY DOWN A FEW MINES AS PUNISHMENT

I NEED A LITTLE MORE RESPECT AROUND HERE!

ized and recorded earlier, Motoko has generated another course key and started executing a new program

GATE

Whist

Fwhooosh



It's not clear here whether this is a scene from an RPG or a shooting game



THAT'S WEIRD
THERE'S NO
SIGN SHE
EVEN WENT
THROUGH
THIS SPECIAL
COURSE
START ZONE

LET'S
SEARCH
FOR
HER

I'LL MASK
US OUT
AND DO A
ONE-
MINUTE
REVERSE



HEY,
THERE'S
NO BREAK
SIGN!

MAYBE SHE
CRACKED
THE KEY AND
SKIPPED TO
ANOTHER
INDEX?



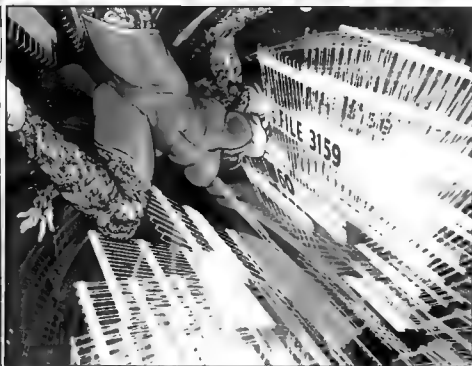
GOT IT!
SHE'S IN THE
"ROULETTE"
ON COURSE
NUMBER
FOUR!

WE'RE
GOING IN
FULL STAGE
MODE!

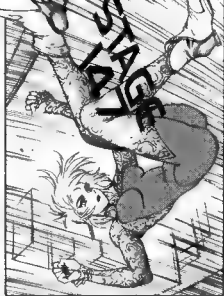
STAGE P MODE



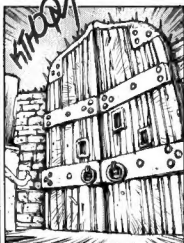
HMM
MAYBE
I'VE
BEEN
TAGGED



FILE 3159



If you were the one who entered this stage instead of Chroma, what action would you take next? Choose from among the following: (1) Remain where you are for some reason or because you don't know what to do (2) Go right for some reason (3) Go straight for some reason (4) Go left for some reason (Note that left is the direction taken in the fifth panel, right is the seventh panel) If you had only five seconds to decide, what would you do?



Motoko doesn't feel the effect, but normally there's a major emotion (fear or delight) included in the package. Players usually become involved with and experience this emotion.



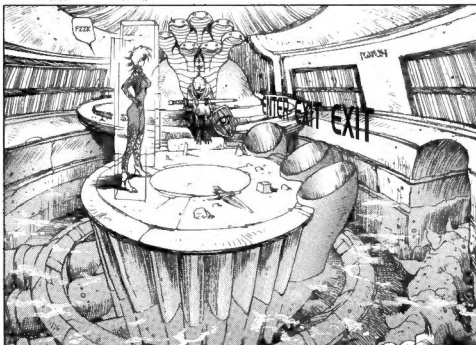
I GET IT...
THERE ARE AS
MANY MULTIPLE
CHOICE PATHWAYS
AS THERE ARE
LAYERS IN THESE
FILE STACKS.



BUT IN THIS
COURSE, MAYBE
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO
FIRST CHECK THE NUMBER
OF STAGES YOU PLAN
TO CLEAR BEFORE
ENTERING...

HMM...

THAT
WOULD
ACTUALLY
EXPLAIN
A LOT...



PZZK

PLWUSH

ENTER EXIT EXIT

I WONDER IF
THERE'S A
HANDICAP OR
SOME SORT
OF TRANS-
FORMATION
GIVEN TO THE
SECOND VISITOR?
OR MAYBE IT'S JUST
A COURSE TO EARN
SMALL CHANGE OR
EXPERIENCE
POINTS...?



BLBB



In this story, "waking up" refers to returning from cyberspace to reality. A totally mechanized cyborg like Chroma (who here is actually functioning as a remote terminal for Motoko) normally doesn't "wake up" as easily as a human with an e-brain.

GHOST IN THE SHELL MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

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